(ii) Dy. Director General (programines,), ICCR toured abroad on one occasion and visited Egypt,

(iii) Assistant Private Secretary T*o* Pre-sident^ ICCK toured abroad on one occasion and visited United Kingdom and France.

The purpose of their visits and the expenditure incurred on these vises is as per Annexure. *(See appendixe* 171, Annexure No. 24]

(c) The achievements of these foreign tour$_s$ are as under:

The tours abroad hav$_e$ facilitated establishment of new cultural links leaved and strengthened the existing cu.uiral relations and enhanced mutual understanding of India and other countries and institutions abroad. The visits nave enhanced cultural exchanges at the institutional level and at the bilateral level facilitating people to people contact.

The tours abroad by President, ICCR and the officials of the ICCR have unilateraly given opportunities to ney tiate steps and measures to further His objectives of ICCR as defined in the Memorandum of Association when the iCCR was established in 1950.

The visit$_s$ abroad have facilitated a better understanding and appreciation abroad of Indian art and culture a. J put forth an image of India in the in.ernational community fulfilling its endeavour to continuously enhance peop.e to people contact with an open at:tude while being receptive to the cultures of other countries.

The visits abroad have provided a supporting role for exchange programmes with all friendly countries. The periodio visits and meetings with heads of cultural departments, organisations, institutions, scholars intellectuals and policy makers are necessary in view of the emphasis on implementation of formal reciprocal arrangements for cultural exchanges contained fa the Cultural Exchange Protocols.

**Protection of Hindu temples in Vietnam**

1127, SHRI S. MADHAVAN. WILL the minister of AFFAIRS At-'FAlRS be pleasea to stale:

(a) whether it is a fact that the jewels and properties OR. Hindu temples in Vietnam are in tue custody of the National Bank, of Vietnam; and

(b) if so, what steps are taken by our embassy to help toe management of Hindu temples to recover those properties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHBED): (a) The jewels and some other items of Saigon Thendayudhapani Temple belonging to the Chettiar Community who left Saigon in the wake of the fall of Saigon in 1975, has been lying in the custody of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of HO Chi Minh City.

(b) The properties have been retained in the custody of the industrial and Commercial Bank and not handed over to the temple management committee, *a$* per the wishes, of the Chettiar Commjniiy.

**US Counsul-GeneraTs comment on Economic policies of West Bengal**

1128. SHRI ASHOK MITRA-. WiU the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the comments recent ly made by the Consul-General of the United States of America at Calcutta openly criticising the economic and indu strial policies of the Government of West
Bengal;

(b) whether it is within the preview of a foreign diplomat to offer such pub lic comments on our internal affairs; and

(c) whether Government will ask the US administration to make proper amends for thiS breach of etiquette on the part of its representative?